

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 /107 W

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R 140659Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6659

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT EG

SUBJECT: REFERENDUM ON OCTOBER PAPER

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. ABOUT 8 MILLION EGYPTIANS ARE EXPECTED TO VOTE MAY 15 ON PLEBISCITE TO APPROVE "OCTOBER PAPER", INITIALLY PRESENTED BY PRESIDENT SADAT TO JOINT SESSION OF PEOPLES ASSEMBLY AND ARAB SOCIALIST UNION CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON APRIL 18. BALLOTING WILL BE ORGANIZED BY ASU. A RESOUNDING "YES" VOTE IS EXPECTED.

2. THERE HAVE BEEN MEETINGS THROUGHOUT EGYPT AT EVERY LEVEL OF ASU FROM CELL TO CENTRAL COMMITTEE DURING THE LAST MONTH TO DISCUSS THE NEW POLICY PAPER.

3. AKHBAR MAY 14 SPLASHES ARTICLE BY MUSTAFA AMIN HEADLINED: "IT IS YOUR RIGHT TO SAY 'NO'." AMIN STATES THAT UNLIKE THE SITUATION AFTER JUNE 5 WHEN CITIZENS FEARED "SECRET REPORTS" AND "FALSE CHARGES", THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR. FOLLOWING OCTOBER 6 THE NEW EGYPTIAN MAN CAN "ACHIEVE MORE VICTORIES WITH MORE FREEDOM". A FREE COUNTRY MUST HAVE PEOPLE FREE TO SAY "NO" TO THE RULER. HE CONCLUDES: "IT IS ONLY THOSE WHO WISH CONCENTRATION CAMPS, OPPRESSION AND SUPPRESSION OF FREEDOM TO RETURN WHO WILL SAY 'NO' TO TOMORROW'S REFERENDUM."

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4. ACCORDING TO GUMHURIYYA MAY 14, AFTER THE REFERENDUM, ASU WILL FORM A COMMITTEE TO DRAFT NEW STATUTES APPROPRIATE TO THE "NEXT STAGE", AS DEFINED BY OCTOBER PAPER.

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5. COMMENT: DEPUTY SPEAKER OF PEOPLES ASSEMBLY TOLD EMBOFF RECENTLY THAT PURPOSE OF REFERENDUM IS TO INVOLVE MASS OF EGYPTIAN PEOPLE IN SADAT'S PERSONAL VISION OF NATION'S FUTURE AND THAT WITH FORMAL ACCEPTANCE OF OCTOBER PAPER BY EGYPTS AS A WHOLE, RESISTANCE TO PLANNED CHANGES WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY. PAPER ITSELF IS SINGULARLY UNINFORMATIVE AS TO WHAT SPECIFIC CHANGES MAY OCCUR, BUT EXPECTATIONS AMONG MANY EGYPTIANS STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT ASU WILL BE AMONG FIRST ORGANS OF GOE TO UNDERGO MODIFICATION, AS GUMHURIYYA REPORTS.
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